

LIBYA
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Officers Feared by Qaddafi Reportedly Close

By EDWARD SCHUMACHER

Special to The New York Times

TRIPOLI, Libya, April 3 — When Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi, Libya's leader, prepares to fly inside his own country, two planes await him on the tarmac, according to witnesses. Only the Colonel knows which plane he will use, they say. The other then takes off as a decoy.

When Colonel Qaddafi travels by land inside Libya, he moves in a heavily-armed caravan of jeeps. And, traveling or not, he wears a bulletproof vest, even under casual clothes at home, according to those who have been around him.

These measures are part of the extraordinary security that surrounds the man, whose home itself is a military barracks where tank guns point through slots at passers-by.

The security is directed against Colonel Qaddafi's own military. Having taken power himself in a military coup 16 years ago, the colonel is said by Western and Arab diplomats and other observers here to be virtually paranoid about new discontent in the ranks.

Hopes of Exploiting Discontent

According to reports from Washington, it is this discontent that the Reagan Administration hopes to exploit. Sources in Congress and the executive branch say that the recent

clashes between the Sixth Fleet and Libyan forces in the Gulf of Sidra were part of an Administration strategy aimed at provoking dissidents in the military to see the cost of what the Administration says is Libyan-backed terrorism as too high and, ultimately, provoking these dissidents to overthrow Colonel Qaddafi, the reports hold.

But the many sources here generally question the Administration's logic. They say the dissidents appear to have closed ranks with the Colonel, at least temporarily, in a show of nationalism against a foreign threat.

One diplomat with particularly close ties to the military reported that many of those in the military who are doubters of Qaddafi are in fact elated over the outcome of the fighting. Despite having suffered a publicly undetermined number of casualties and damage to boats, planes and a radar site, they see Libya — and themselves — as a David that has stood up against the American Goliath.

'Misreading' Is Seen

"The Americans are misreading the internal situation," said one diplomat.

Some of the diplomats acknowledge that in the murkiness of Libyan politics, American military pressure could prove to be effective in the long term. But the consensus among the many sources is that the best policy to get rid of Colonel Qaddafi is to leave him to his

own designs. They say his erratic political behavior and his failing economic policies in the face of plummeting oil prices are fanning dissension on their own.

Libyans are being inconvenienced by shortages in food and consumer products, while many of the colonel's grandiose construction projects have become mired in mismanagement and debt. Falling income from oil has meant that the country can no longer buy its way out of its problems.

"Qaddafi is his worst enemy," said one diplomat.

Secretiveness in Libya, which is saturated by a pervasive intelligence network, makes the extent of the dissent inside the military difficult to measure. But at least seven assassination attempts, most of them by military men, have been reported in recent years.

Efforts to Displace Military

At the heart of the current dissent is a resentment of efforts by Colonel Qaddafi to insert a corps of an estimated 1,000 to 2,000 "revolutionary guards" inside the armed forces. These guards are said to be mostly young, pro-Qaddafi zealots who politically monitor even commanding officers. Some diplomats say the guards may have the keys to stockpiled ammunition.

The military is also said to resent the growing role, at least until recently, of "revolu-

Ranks With Him Against U.S.

tionary committees." These committees, for the most part, are neighborhood-organized militia that have increasingly become Colonel Qaddafi's eyes and ears in Libyan society and the source of his power.

Colonel Qaddafi has expressed his determination to eventually replace the professional military with these "armed people."

The economic recession has also touched the military. The Colonel continues making roughly \$1 billion a year worth of purchases of Soviet arms, but some 1,400 tanks and 450 combat planes have remained stored, often crated, according to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies. Libya is said to lack the pilots for the planes and the crews for the tanks.

Construction Projects Slowed

Meanwhile, a number of military construction projects have been canceled or slowed, and some military commissary privileges have been withdrawn. The waste and diminished privileges have fed resentments.

One result is that the military is reported to be divided over Libya's involvement in Chad. Several thousand troops are still in that country, Libya's southern neighbor, and the venture is said to be costly. But the army's Commander in Chief, Brig. Abu-Bakr Younis Jaber, backs staying there.

ment, Col. Hassan Ishkal, a professional soldier said to be popular in the military, was killed in what foreign diplomats here say was a politically motivated murder. Some versions hold that he died in the presence of Colonel Qaddafi himself.

Tensions With Egypt an Issue

Colonel (Ishkal) a distant cousin of Colonel Qaddafi, was known to oppose many of Colonel Qaddafi's policies. He was also said to oppose Colonel Qaddafi's provocation of tensions with its neighbor, Egypt.

Even if Colonel Qaddafi were removed, it is unclear what a new military leadership would do about terrorism, the diplomats said. Colonel Qaddafi acknowledges that he has provided training, funding and weapons for what he calls foreign revolutionary groups, although he denies any role in their tactical operations. Some of the training takes place on military bases, indicating that the military accepts it, the diplomats said.

In addition, an estimated 5,000 to 6,000 Soviet and other East bloc military advisers are in Libya, and it is unclear what position a new military leadership would take toward the Russians, the diplomats said. Some diplomats maintain that no coup would be possible without Soviet knowledge, and possibly even agreement. For the time being, they said, the

Wash Post

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Qaddafi Claims U.S. Attacked Jet

■ LONDON—Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi accused the U.S. military of firing on a recent routine Libyan reconnaissance flight over the Mediterranean, Ghana's Accra radio said in a broadcast monitored by the BBC in London.

"Libya will never be frightened by the repeated acts of aggression by the United States," the radio reported Qaddafi as saying after he arrived in Accra for a state visit.



MUAMMAR QADDAFI
... said to kill provincial governor

Libyan Leader Reportedly Thwarted Assassination Try

Wash Post
United Press International

TRIPOLI, Libya, Jan. 4—Libyan leader Col. (Muammar Qaddafi) thwarted an assassination attempt in November during which a provincial governor was killed, western diplomats said today.

The diplomats, who declined to be identified, said Col. Hassan Eshqal was killed in a hail of gunfire at Qaddafi's Bab al Azzizya barracks.

Libyan officials refused to answer questions about Eshqal's death.

The diplomats, however, said Libya officially declared that Eshqal died in a car accident, but they quoted hospital sources and officials in Qaddafi's office as saying the colonel was brought to a Tripoli hospital with six bullet wounds.

The alleged assassination attempt by a man who belonged to Qaddafi's Qadafodam tribe and was married to a niece of the Libyan leader reflected mounting criticism within the armed forces of Qaddafi's economic policies.

"I'm going to the Bab al Azzizya

to kill Qaddafi," the diplomats quoted Eshqal as telling his officers in Surt, a major military base 250 miles southeast of the capital. "I am sure they will kill me. But when you hear that Qaddafi is dead, move your troops from Surt to Tripoli."

The diplomats said Qaddafi, warned of Eshqal's plans, hid security agents armed with submachine guns in his office before Eshqal's arrival.

The diplomats quoted Libyan officials as saying that Qaddafi told the agents to kill Eshqal if the colonel put his hand in his pocket during their meeting.

"There was a heated discussion between Qaddafi and Eshqal, which erupted into shouting," one diplomat said. "Eshqal put his hand in his pocket when the machine-gun fire erupted." The diplomats said they believed Qaddafi personally participated in the shooting.

Reports of attempts against Qaddafi have been widespread in recent years, although many of the reports have been dismissed by western diplomats as disinformation.

Qaddafi, Muammar

LIBYA

FOREIGN NEWS

The Jerusalem Post p. 4

Monday, January 13, 1986 The

Invites Reagan to pay him a visit

Gaddafi gives journalists rare glimpse of family

By KATE DOURIAN

TRIPOLI (Reuters). - With the flair of a master showman, Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi accorded a handful of women journalists a rare glimpse of his family in his Beduin tent - then invited President Ronald Reagan to come too.

Gaddafi said the U.S. president would change his mind about him being a terrorist if he came to visit him.

"He would see I don't live in trenches with hand grenades in my belt or carry a pistol. They think I don't laugh or smile, that I have no family," he told the reporters on Saturday.

The 43-year-old Gaddafi was flanked by his wife Safiya and four of his seven children in his tent pitched inside the fortified Bab-el-Azzazia barracks on the outskirts of Tripoli.

He confided that he tried to help his children with their homework and that he wanted them all to grow up to be doctors.

Gaddafi, exploiting the presence of a big press corps which descended on Tripoli since a crisis flared with the U.S., told the women: "I'm inviting Reagan through you."

Reagan has imposed economic sanctions on Libya and denounced Gaddafi as a barbarian, accusing him of harbouring the Abu Nidal terrorists, blamed for attacks which killed 19 people in Rome and Vienna airports on December 27.

Gaddafi, born to nomadic parents, was dressed in Beduin style when he presented his family to the women reporters. His 32-year-old wife was dressed in a red and black outfit. Her head was uncovered.

She said she did not like politics. Safiya recalled she was a student nurse when she first saw Gaddafi. He had just had an operation to remove his appendix shortly after seizing power as a young army officer in 1969. Only one of their seven children is a girl, named after his mother.

Gaddafi said he would like more children.

He said several of his brothers and sisters died of malaria before he was born. So he insisted that his own children take up the medical profession to help the starving and the sick in Africa.

Although devoted to his children, Gaddafi has a hard time remembering their ages. Safiya listened quietly, clutching her four-year-old son, Seif al-Arab (the sword of the Arabs), closely to her breast. Gaddafi does not want his wife to cover her head. It is a custom which has no meaning, he said.

QADHAFI, Mu'ammarr

LIBYA

QADDAFI APPEARS, CONDEMNS ATTACK

12 April 1986
V Speed Dispers Rumors
That He Was Killed or Hurt

By EDWARD SCHUMACHER

Special to The New York Times

TRIPOLI, Libya, April 16 — Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi, in his first public statement since the United States bombing raid, condemned the attack and Britain's role in its planning. He thanked France for refusing to take part and pledged to continue his support for the popular revolution.

The 20-minute appearance on television partly cleared up questions about the two bombings of the Libyan leader, who had not been seen publicly since the raid early Tuesday. His absence set off rumors around the world that he might have left the country or been wounded or even killed, though that was denied by Libyan officials.

Whereabouts Unknown

It was unclear from the broadcast, which began at 11:15 P.M., whether Colonel Qaddafi spoke in a live transmission, though references to the raid proved he survived it.

The whereabouts of Colonel Qaddafi, who was dressed in a white naval uniform with gold epaulets and spoke with a map of Libya behind him, were also unknown. His voice was subdued but he appeared healthy.

President Reagan, the Libyan leader said, "should be put on trial as a war criminal and murderer of children."

The attack, in which his headquar-

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ters were reported hit, was said to have killed the colonel's infant daughter and wounded two sons of pre-school age, who are listed in serious condition in a hospital here, officials said.

"We are ready to die and we are ready to carry on fighting and defending our country," Colonel Qaddafi declared, speaking in Arabic.

Mr. Reagan, he said, was "guilty of issuing orders to regular forces to murder children and attack houses."

"We have not issued any orders for murdering anybody, but we are inciting revolution," he said. "Inciting revolution and establishing popular revolution everywhere in the world is one of our aims."

"We will never abandon the uniting of the Arab nation, and the raids will not make us abandon this call, which concerns only us and does not concern the Americans or anybody else in the world," he continued.

"It is a great thing that a small country like Libya can confront Britain and the United States," he said. "It was as if they were launching a third world war, coming 4,000 kilometers and refueling so many times."

"We know that airplanes came from Britain, and we know that France did not allow overflights," he said. "We thank France for that."

The colonel did not repeat the threats of reprisal he made before the bombing raid. "We can tell Reagan that he doesn't have to protect his children and citi-

zens because we do not bomb children like the United States does," he said.

Meanwhile, a bus filled with reporters early this afternoon was pulling up to the colonel's headquarters compound, Bab al Aziziya barracks, to inspect the damage from the bombing when firing broke out.

About a dozen soldiers with automatic rifles ran out a green side gate, and the sound of machine guns rattled overhead. A flash of light from behind the high compound walls appeared to indicate the firing of a missile.

The Libyan authorities said later that a high altitude American reconnaissance plane, an SR-71 Blackbird, was flying overhead.

Colonel Qaddafi is known to face dissonance from the armed forces, though there were no strong indications that a coup was in the works.

The television and radio statement was repeated minutes after its first broadcast, though it was uncertain how many Libyans saw it. Blackout orders have darkened this city for the second night in a row as the Government had reported additional bombing raids and intense barrages of anti-aircraft fire and missiles have broken out sporadically.

Cites Palestinian Struggle

In his remarks, Colonel Qaddafi said: "We will not abandon the struggle for the liberation of Palestine. The raids will never make us abandon this. We will not abandon our incitement of popular revolution, whatever raids they carry out."

"If the United States hits us with nuclear bombs, we will stand up to it because Allah is stronger than the United States," he said. "We are ready to die."

"It is very clear we did not carry our fight to the United States," he said. "They came here."

Information Minister Mohammed Sharaf Eddin said in an interview here tonight that Colonel Qaddafi had not been wounded in the bombing and that he was busy at work at an undisclosed location somewhere in Libya.

Other officials said that the colonel was in Tripoli today and that he had talked on the phone with a number of Arab heads of state. Which ones was not disclosed.

Responds to Report of Coup

Mr. Sharaf Eddin summoned five reporters for the interview to respond to a report on the BBC suggesting that the firing at Colonel Qaddafi's compound was a coup attempt. The report may also have prompted the colonel's television appearance. Libyans widely rely on the BBC for news.

Shortly after the television broadcast, lights inside the Al Kabir Hotel, where most foreign reporters are staying, suddenly went on, an indication that officials wanted news of the broadcast sent out. The rest of the city remained blacked out.



Associated Press

QADDAFI'S HEADQUARTERS: Compound of Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi at El-Azziziya Barracks. Domed building at left was described as his office; his bunker was said to be under central part of complex.

Qaddafi Goes on TV, Assailing U.S.

The press buses had sped away when the barracks firing broke out. But all seemed calm and some guards lounged lazily when reporters returned about an hour later. There were no indications of any internal struggles.

Inside the nearly 20-acre compound, reporters found what appeared to be eight bomb craters along a 300-yard row extending from immediately in front of the colonel's private house to an administrative building under which he works out of a fortified bunker. The row passed within 50 yards of a camouflaged Bedouin tent in which the colonel also often works.

The Reagan Administration has denied it set out to kill Colonel Qaddafi in the bombing raid. Nonetheless, it appeared that no other parts of the compound were hit.

The colonel's house was a porticoed, boxy two-story building covered in pale-colored tile. The windows and doors were blown out, ceilings were caved in, and rooms were filled with smashed furniture and dangling wires.

At least two bombs dropped within 30 yards of the house. The supports on the colonel's tent had been blown out and some shattered.

Officials guiding the reporters around said the colonel was inside the sandbagged tent at the time of the raid. But this was not confirmed.



Associated Press

ON TELEVISION: Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi was the first to appear on broadcast in Libya after the raid.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 1986

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except on Long Island.

30 CENT

U.S. CALLS LIBYA RAID A SUCCESS; 'CHOICE IS THEIRS,' REAGAN SAYS; MOSCOW CANCELS SHULTZ TALKS



Residents of Tripoli, Libya inspecting damage to buildings and vehicles after American bombing attacks.

Associated Press

Qaddafi Daughter Dies in Attack; Damage in Tripoli Is Widespread

By EDWARD SCHUMACHER

Special to The New York Times

TRIPOLI, Libya, April 15 — The American planes that attacked early today struck a number of military targets, including the headquarters compound of the Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar el-Qaddafi, a naval academy and air bases here and in Benghazi. There was also damage in a residential neighborhood in the capital.

Libyans tried to assess the damage, but there was no publicly available estimate of casualties.

After the raids, at least 15 people were reported dead and 60 wounded in the residential neighborhood, hospital workers said.

Among those reported dead was Colonel Qaddafi's 15-month-old adopted daughter. Two other children in his family were reported injured in his home, which is in a military compound.

The Libyan leader maintained a public silence and his whereabouts was not immediately known. His daughter, Hana, died two and a half hours after suffering a concussion and internal injuries from an explosion next to the Colonel's home. In keeping with custom, she was buried before sunset.

The two injured sons of Colonel Qaddafi's seven surviving children were listed in serious condition in a pediatric hospital from percussion wounds. Doctors said the children were Camis, 3, and Sef al-Arab, 4.

Colonel Qaddafi's wife, Safiya, was said by a family doctor to have suffered from shock from a blast. The colonel himself was widely reported to have escaped injury and was assumed to have been working in an underground command bunker at the time of the attack.

The Qaddafi residence is in the Bab el-Aziziyah Barracks, the colonel's heavily fortified headquarters and liv-

ing compound in a populated section of the city.

The powerful blast broke windows for blocks around and raised large clouds of smoke in the night sky.

To add to the tension in the capital, antiaircraft flak and missiles suddenly filled the night sky again tonight, although it was not clear that there were any American planes about. [In Washington, American officials said there had been no United States attacks Tuesday.]

Apparently in a reprisal today, a Libyan patrol boat shot missiles at a North Atlantic Treaty Organization communications center operated by the United States Coast Guard on the Italian island of Lampedusa. Libya asserted that the damage was severe, but

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U.S. Raid Kills Daughter of Qaddafi, Also Hits a

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Italian and American authorities called it light.

An Soviet-bloc official said he had witnessed the downing of an American warplane over the water off Tripoli in the raid by F-111 and A-7 jets beginning before 2 A.M. this morning.

Foreign reporters here were taken to two sites upon promises by officials of the Information Ministry to see two downed American warplanes, but no planes were seen.

Claims of 20 Shot Down

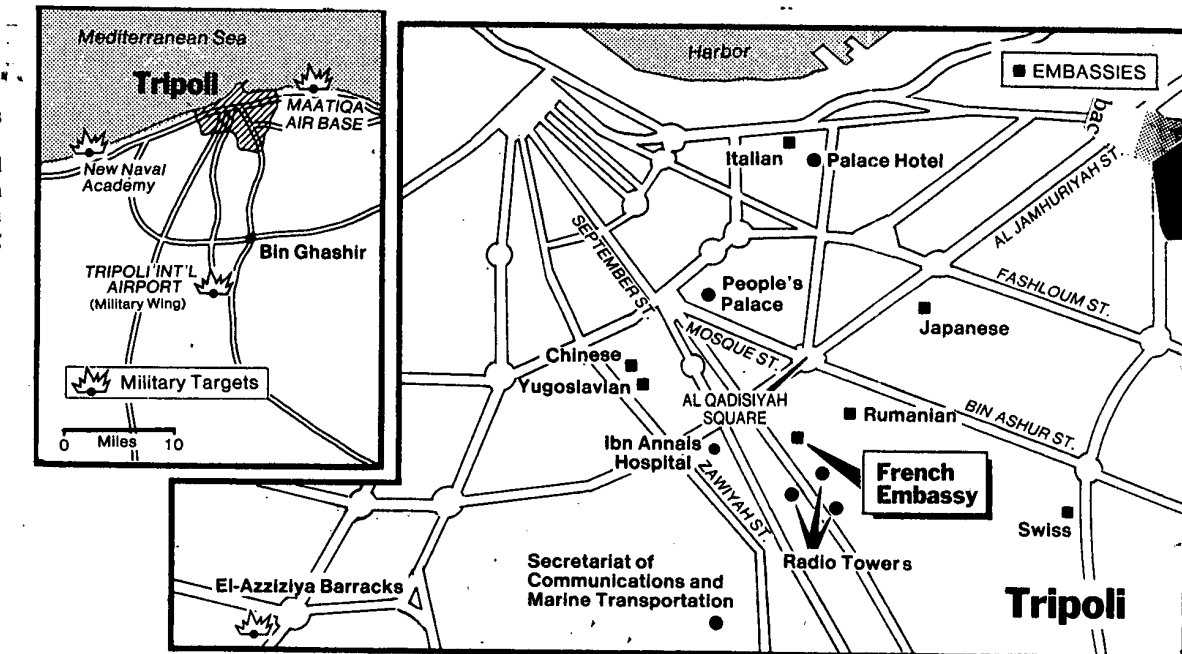
The Libyan radio said American pilots had been killed by Libyan mobs and later said that at least 20 planes had been shot down.

From the vantage of a balcony facing the harbor here, reporters could hear the deep roars on the edge of the city tonight, but it was unclear if bombs were dropping or if it was the sound of anti-aircraft missiles and guns.

In the Binashor residential district, residents reported that four or five bombs were dropped by warplanes that might have been aiming at the the nearby headquarters of the Libyan intelligence agency.

In the bombing early Tuesday, nearly half a dozen houses were destroyed and many others damaged in a six-block area.

As rescue workers sifted through the rubble, one angry resident shouted, "I didn't expect this, but I should have ex-



Bombs damaged one side of the French Embassy and parts of the Swiss and Rumanian Embassies. Most of the damage in Tripoli was confined to this neighborhood and el-Azziziya barracks, where the Qaddafis live.

The New York Times / April 16, 1986

pected it from a country like the United States." The bombs also damaged one side of the French Embassy, blowing out windows and overturning files.

The Austrian and Japanese diplomatic residences and the Embassies of

the Swiss and Rumanian Governments were damaged in varying degrees.

Shops Are Shut, Streets Quiet

In most of the city, calm reigned; almost all shops were shut and streets

were empty.

Men with automatic rifles stood in front of the most important buildings, at times checking the identification of visitors to foreign embassies. No hostile actions were reported against

Residential Area of Tripoli

Americans or Western Europeans here.

The Government closed the airport, saying both it and an airport in Benghazi had been damaged in the raid.

The Libyan radio said commercial airliners that were on the ground at the time of the attack also had been hit, but this could not be confirmed.

Foreign diplomats said a military airfield adjacent to the Tripoli airport and, across town, the sprawling former Wheelus United States Air Force Base, now called Maatiga, took a pounding. There were two or three large unexplained explosions near the airport around 9:30 o'clock this morning.

Doctor Says Raid Killed Qaddafi's Youngest Child

Special to The New York Times

TRIPOLI, Libya, April 15 — The youngest child of Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi, a 15-month-old adopted daughter named Hana, died in the attack by American fighter-bombers early this morning, according to the family pediatrician.

Two other children of the Libyan leader were wounded, he said.

The pediatrician, Dr. Mohammed Muafa, said he went to the Qaddafi household at 3:10 this morning, about an hour after the bombing raid. He said Colonel Qaddafi's wife "was in a bad state of shock."

Colonel Qaddafi's private home is inside the Bab el-Azziziya Barracks, which also serves as his personal headquarters in the capital. The colonel himself, according to most reports, was not injured and was probably not in the house at the time of the attack.

A Guarded Hospital Ward

Dr. Muafa was interviewed outside a hospital ward with eight beds. It was there that the wounded children were brought, he said. A guard holding two automatic rifles stood outside the door.

According to Dr. Muafa, Colonel Qaddafi has not come to the hospital. He has instead maintained a public silence, not saying anything even about the fighting.

"I saw very much terror among the

family," Dr. Muafa said in describing the scene after the raid. Colonel Qaddafi was not there, he added.

Dr. Muafa said Colonel Qaddafi's two-story stucco house was badly damaged and its windows blown out by nearby explosions.

Injuries to Daughter

The blast was so powerful that young Hana suffered a skull fracture and internal injuries, the doctor said. All of Colonel Qaddafi's eight children were rushed by ambulances to the Pediatric Teaching Hospital of Al Fatah University, the doctor said.

Hana died shortly after arrival, he said, while an orthopedic surgeon was en route to the hospital to operate on her. The doctor said she was buried today before sundown, in keeping with Moslem custom.

She was an adopted child, selected from a nursery when she was 4 months old. Of the colonel's seven natural children, six are boys and only one, 8-year-old Esha, is a girl.

"His wife wanted another girl," Dr. Muafa said, referring to Safiya el-Qaddafi, who was herself taken to a hospital for adults.

Dr. Muafa said she suffered mostly from shock, but neither he nor Information Ministry officials here knew her condition tonight.

Most of the children were treated for

shock and lacerations and released, Dr. Muafa said. These included 16-year-old Mohammed, 14-year-old Sef al-Islam, 13-year-old Sad, 9-year-old Hanibal and Esha, the doctor said.

But the other two, 4-year-old Sef al-Arab, and 3-year-old Camis, remain in the hospital ward.

The hospital is a well-equipped but shabby yellow stucco structure in the colonial style of the period when Italy ruled Libya before World War II.

The two boys are in serious condition. They had been sleeping alone in separate rooms and suffered internal injuries, Dr. Muafa said.

The Bab al-Azziziya Barracks is a 10-to-15 acre complex. Inside is a reception hall, barracks, individual houses and an open field on which squats a sand-bagged tent in which the 44-year-old colonel often works. He was born and raised in a similar one.

There was no explanation immediately available as to why Colonel Qaddafi did not visit his children in the hospital. It was not known if he attended Hana's burial.

Western diplomats and Libyans said they were not puzzled by the colonel's silence. He has always had an unconventional style and has great instincts in a crisis, they said.

Business Day helps you stay ahead

NY TIMES

4/10/86

Libya Says U.S. Attack Would Bring Response

By EDWARD SCHUMACHER

Special to The New York Times

TRIPOLI, Libya, April 9 — Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi said today that if the United States attacked Libya, he would issue orders for attacks against American targets worldwide.

At the same time, the Libyan leader denied that his Government was involved in recent terrorist attacks, and he challenged President Reagan to make public the proof the Administration has said it has.

"So far, we have not ordered such attacks," he said in a news conference. "But if aggression is staged against us, we shall give the orders and the instructions to the Arab Revolutionary Command forces and to the Mathaba to stage such actions against American targets all over the world."

The Arab Revolutionary Command includes Libyan-backed dissident groups of the Palestine Liberation Organization, such as the known terrorist groups led by Abu Nidal and Abu Musa, as well as Iranian, Syrian and other armed groups.

A Mathaba congress last month was attended by 258 delegations, including American Indians, the American Black Muslims led by Louis Farrakhan and a patchwork of Irish, Basque, Philippine, Kurd, Palestinian and other groups, some of them separatist or extremist.

Qaddafi's Position Shifts

Colonel Qaddafi's identification of groups that he could order to carry out attacks was unusual.

He has often threatened to attack American targets, including those in the United States. Last month he said he would train "terrorist and suicide missions."

But he has also said that while he trains, arms and gives money to unidentified extremist groups, he is not involved in their tactical operations.

"It is axiomatic that the Americans will be defeated militarily," he said. "It is axiomatic that if aggression is being staged against us, we shall escalate the violence against American targets, civilian and noncivilian, all over the world."

"It should be clear from now on that the Reagan Administration is responsible and not us if American security is threatened in American cities," he said.

Libyan officials seem to be uneasy about the possibility of American military action against them. Officials repeatedly ask foreign reporters whether they think the Sixth Fleet might return or West Europeans might give into



Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi

pressure from the Reagan Administration to join in economic sanctions against this desert nation.

Reporters Called to Tent

Called to an open field in Colonel Qaddafi's heavily fortified headquarters and living compound here, about 10 reporters met with him outside a Bedouin tent in which he often works. Some 20 commanders from the Libyan Army, Navy, Air Force and other services trooped out of the tent just after the reporters arrived.

"We have just finished preparing military plans for confrontation in response to the latest American threats against us," he said.

He said that Libya was also prepared to sabotage shipping in the Mediterranean and attack European and Arab ports that allow Sixth Fleet visits.

Colonel Qaddafi was born, and largely raised in a similar tent in the Sahara. Inside it could be seen a desk with books and papers on it, a television set, video cassettes and a circle of chairs. The inside was draped with colorful carpets and weavings. The outside was olive camouflage; sandbags were stacked high along its sides.

The colonel's tone, while hardly conciliatory, lacked the bombastic fervor of some of his public statements. His threats were almost all in the conditional.

First Session Since Clashes

Colonel Qaddafi has often threatened to attack American targets and last month said he would train "terrorist and suicide missions."

"I am against terrorism but I support just causes of liberation," he said in an interview with United Press International last week.

After the Rome and Vienna airport attacks on Dec. 27, he denied he even trained terrorists. "If they were here, they would be my responsibility," he said, "but they are not here."

The news conference was the first Colonel Qaddafi has given since before the clashes between the Sixth Fleet and Libyan forces in the Gulf of Sidra and a series of terrorist attacks in Western Europe. Among the attacks have been the bombings of a Berlin discotheque and a Trans World Airlines flight en route to Athens.

He called American accusations of his involvement in the bombings "an old story." He said of evidence, "We challenge them to publish it."

American officials have said that Colonel Qaddafi has made entreaties for peace with the United States, most recently with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia as an intermediary during the Gulf of Sidra clashes. The colonel has obliquely acknowledged that he has been rejected and today took a hard line himself.

"There is no negotiating with the Americans unless they abandon conducting state international terrorism," he said. He declined to say what he had offered the United States, but the Reagan Administration is seeking his removal.

LIBYA

THE WASHINGTON POST

4 APRIL 86

U.S. Aims to Weaken Qaddafi at Home

Sketchy Reports of Domestic Unrest Have Encouraged Administration

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Staff Writer

SANTA BARBARA, Calif., April 3—When President Reagan's advisers met three weeks ago to give final approval to naval exercises in the Gulf of Sidra, Secretary of State George P. Shultz said the potential for conflict with Libya could help the United States accomplish a larger goal.

According to a participant, Shultz said he wanted the soldiers manning the radar at a Libyan missile site to begin asking themselves "if they really want to follow" their leader, Muammar Qaddafi, into a military clash with the United States.

The secretary's remark underscores a critical but little-mentioned goal of the Reagan administration's recent actions toward Libya—to build enough pressure on Qaddafi from within and without to destabilize his regime eventually.

The Reagan administration has insisted publicly that it only wants Qaddafi to change his ways and halt his support for international terrorism and his aggression in the re-

gion. And the recent naval crossing of Qaddafi's "line of death" in the gulf was justified primarily as a demonstration of freedom of navigation.

But privately, senior officials say that the exercises and other actions toward Libya have a broader goal of eroding Qaddafi's standing at home.

The officials said reports reaching the administration suggest that Qaddafi faces growing internal unrest from the military and his people. While the information is sketchy, they said, it has encouraged the administration.

According to one high-ranking policy-maker, pressure on Qaddafi has intensified in recent months, with increasing isolation of Libya by other nations, the conflict in Chad, the effects of the U.S. economic boycott and the casualties inflicted at the missile site at Surt and in the gulf last week by the U.S. Navy.

"They are all cumulatively beginning to take their toll," said the official, who is familiar with intelligence reports on the matter and spoke on condition he not be identified. "The professional military

establishment in Libya is increasingly wondering whether it makes a great deal of sense to follow Qaddafi's leadership," he added.

The official said Qaddafi "seems to be shedding his professional support groups and recruiting ideologues" and loyalists for the government. "The few professionals are on the way out. That is a sign of nervousness and anxiety."

"Even his own tribal base is no longer satisfied with his position," the official remarked.

"There is something about the structure of these regimes. . . they operate from a very narrow base," he said. "This puts them at a disadvantage from the beginning."

The Libyan people "don't like thugs running around the country telling them what to do," he said, referring to Qaddafi's "revolutionary councils." He also mentioned food shortages and said Libyans also "don't like being ordered on suicidal military missions."

"They don't like being ordered into Chad to satisfy his [Qaddafi's] pretensions of grandeur," he added. Qaddafi has been lending logistical

support to rebels seeking to overthrow the government of President Hissene Habre; recently French warplanes bombed a Libyan-built airfield in northern Chad in retaliation for Qaddafi's support of the rebels.

There have been signs of unrest in Libya in recent years, including a series of coup attempts. In 1984, at least two dozen people who were apparently part of a plot aimed at Qaddafi were killed in a shootout with Libyan security forces, according to reports reaching Washington at the time.

Later that spring there were more reports of clashes between dissidents and Libyan forces. Also, the public hanging of two Tripoli students was reported to have fueled open dissent among thousands of students forced to watch.

In 1985, a segment of the Libyan military reportedly launched two assassination attempts against Qaddafi, who responded by executing dozens of officers.

Staff researcher James Schwartz contributed to this report.

QADDAFI, Mu'ammarr